

dismantling of QRs and the consequent increase in international competition; and,

(ii) To consider and evolve a road map for selective de-reservation in respect of certain products presently reserved for the SSI Sector, as may be considered necessary for enabling a phased and orderly transition and increasing national competitiveness.

- (c) The deliberations of the GOM are not yet over.
- (d) and (e) No, Sir.

Increase in SSI Units

† 2165. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:

DR. D. MASTHAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of small scale industrial units in the year 1991 was 19 lakh which has increased to about 31 lakh;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the persons working in the small scale industrial sector has also increased to 42 lakh during the above period; and
- (d) if not, the actual number of such persons at present together with the year-wise increase in their number since 1991?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SQALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The estimated number of small scale industrial units in the country was 19.48 lakhs during the year 1990-91 and the same during 1998-99 was 31.21 lakhs.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) The estimated number of persons employed in the small scale industrial sector in 1999-2000 is 178.50 lakhs. The year-wise estimated employment and the increase since 1990-91 is as under:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

RAJYA SABHA

[10 August, 2000]

Year	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Estimated Employment (in lakhs numbers)	125.30	129.80	134.06	139.38	146.56	152.61	160.00	167.20	171.58	178.50
Estimated increase since 1990-91 (in lakh numbers)	—	4.50	8.76	14.08	21.26	27.31	34.70	41.90	46.28	53.20